

REMARKS

Claims 27, 30-36, 38-55 and 57-58 are pending. Claims 27, 30, 31, 34, 39, 42, 51, 55, 57 and 58 have been amended. Claims 28, 29 and 56 have been canceled.

Claim Objections

The Patent Office objected to claim 55.

Claim 55 has been amended.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Patent Office rejected Claims 27, 28, 30, 32, 33, 36, 38, 45-50, 54 and 55 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamagishi, U.S. Patent No. 6,083,013 (Yamagishi).

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Patent Office rejected Claims 35, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamagishi, U.S. Patent No. 6,083,013 (Yamagishi) in view of Shah et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,127,837 (Shah).

Allowable Subject Matter

The Patent Office is thanked for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 29, 31, 34, 39-41, 43, 44, 51-53 and 56-58.

Claim 27 was amended to include the limitations of claim 29, thus claim 27 is believed allowable.

Claim 30 is believed allowable based upon its dependence upon claim 27.

Claim 31 was amended by placing it in independent form including limitations of base claims, thus is believed allowable.

Claims 32-33 are believed allowable due to their dependence upon an allowable claim 27.

Claim 34 was amended by placing it in independent form including limitations of base claims, thus is believed allowable.

Claims 35, 36 are believed allowable due to their dependence upon an allowable claim 27.

Claim 39 was amended by placing it in independent form including limitations of base claims, thus is believed allowable.

Claims 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 are believed allowable due to their dependence upon an allowable claim 39.

Claims 45-50 are believed allowable due to their dependence upon an allowable claim 27.

Claim 51 was amended by placing it in independent form including limitations of base claims, thus is believed allowable.

Claims 52-53 are believed allowable due to their dependence upon an allowable claim 51.

Claim 54 is believed allowable due to their dependence upon an allowable claim 27.

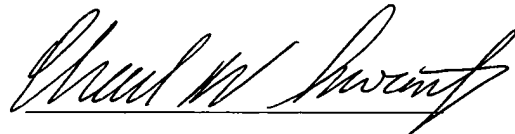
Claim 55 was amended to include the limitations of claim 56, thus is believed allowable.

Claims 57-58 are believed allowable due to their dependence upon an allowable claim 55.

CONCLUSION

In light of the forgoing amendments and arguments, reconsideration of the claims is hereby requested, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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